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this convention, we were again reminded of the fact that volunteer service could no longer be a satisfactory permanent management of the Association. In order that the matter may be brought to a definite discussion, I have drafted the following amendment to the Constitution of the American Library Association, which I desire to submit, with the object of substituting a single paid official for our present Secretary, Treasurer, and Recorder, and changing the Constitution of the Executive board, which change is thus made necessary. I would also say that my sole purpose is that the management of the Association may be made more efficient. I am not wedded to my own scheme, and that will be seen by the resolution which I shall read to you. I am perfectly willing to have the Constitution amended in any form that may be best in order to meet the ends desired:

Resolved. That the following amendments be made to the Constitution of the American Library Association:

1 In Section 7, strike out the words "Secretary, Recorder, and Treasurer," and insert in lieu thereof the words "a Secretary-Treasurer."

2 In Section 7, strike out the words "together with the President for the preceding term shall constitute an Executive board and they" and add to the section, at the end thereof, the following words: "There shall be an Executive board, composed of the President and six members of the Association, chosen at the annual meeting of the Council."

3 Strike out Sections 9, 10, and 11.

4 Insert a new Section 9, as follows: "There shall be a Secretary-Treasurer, appointed by the Executive board, who shall devote his whole time, or such part thereof as said Board may direct, to the interests of the Association, in cooperation with and under the authority of the Executive board and who shall receive at stated intervals a salary, the amount of which shall be fixed by the Council. He shall be the active executive officer of the Association, shall keep a record of the attendance and proceedings at each meeting of the Association, Council, and Executive board, shall record all receipts and disbursements, and pay bills on written order of two members of the finance committee, shall make an annual report to the Association, and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned him by the Executive board or by the Council."

5 Renumber the other sections, as may be made necessary by the above amendments.

Resolved. That these proposed amendments be received, that they be referred, for consideration and report, to a special committee of five, consisting of the President and four others to be appointed by the President, and that the report of this committee be made a special order of business for Tuesday, May 28, at 10.30 a. m.

By unanimous consent this resolution was received and referred to the Council.

Mr J. C. DANA: I wish to offer another amendment, which can well take the same course as the one just passed with reference to possible change in method of amendment of the Constitution. Under the present Constitution, if an amendment is changed during the year's deliberation of it, by even so much as a comma, it is necessary to defer its adoption for still another year. I move that:

In Section 26, the words "in their final form" be stricken out.

The PRESIDENT: The motion has been duly seconded and unless objection is made, it will be received and referred to the Council.

We will now proceed with the paper which should have been read Saturday by Miss MARY E. WOOD, of the library of Boone college, Wuchang, China, on

#### LIBRARY WORK IN A CHINESE CITY

The city of Wuchang, where we are starting this library work, is 600 miles up the Yangtze River. It is just opposite the city of Hankow, the largest tea port in the world, and the principal trading and railroad center of Middle China. From its commercial importance it is often spoken of as the "Chicago of China."

Crossing over the Yangtze to Wuchang, one finds oneself in an entirely different atmosphere. The city is one of the greatest literary centers in the whole empire. It is frequently termed the "Boston of China," the "hub" of the Middle Kingdom. Wuchang is the home of one of the leading progressive statesmen of the day, Chang Chih-tung, who is called by Minister Rockhill the greatest Chinese scholar in the country. He is the author of the book "China's only hope." This hope he believes lies in adopting Western education, and so he has made this city the capital of his Vice-royalty, a seat of the "New learning," as it is often called. Under the old regime Wuchang was a center of learning, for here one of the great ex-

amination halls was located, where sometimes between 20 and 30 thousand competitors gathered from all over this section of China to try the great triennial examinations for Chinese degrees. Now by the Emperor's edict, this ancient system of examinations, which has existed in some form since several centuries before the Christian era, has been done away with for all time, and Western methods of teaching have been adopted in all the government schools of prominence throughout the empire.

This change has all come about since the China-Japan War. The Chinese were then forced to see from their ignominious defeat that they were a very weak nation, and in looking about for the cause of it realized that it was owing to the fact that they had not kept up with the march of civilization. From this event dates the beginning of the great renaissance which marks this period of the country's history.

In the city of Wuchang one can see in all its fullness the great educational changes through which this ancient country is at present passing. The Viceroy has opened here about 100 schools. He has put up between 20 and 30 foreign buildings, and equipped them with school furnishings from Japan. Then, to meet this demand for education he has utilized private houses, granaries, etc. Even the historic old examination halls, to which I have just alluded, which in the past were held in such reverence that they were set apart and never used for any other purpose, now simply take rank as one of the many schools of Western learning. Temples are not spared in this wholesale appropriation of buildings for educational purposes, and one sees student's desks in front of the unused dusty altars, with their discarded heathen gods and empty incense burners, and the teacher has taken the place of the Buddhist and Taoist priest. There are about 8,000 students in this city, and the place has the appearance of a university town. They come from all parts of Central China, and as

far north as Peking, and as far south as Canton. The fact of Wuchang as a literary center has been set forth in this article, but in order to understand the situation here, its importance as a military station must also be shown. There are probably 20,000 soldiers here at present. Their barracks and parade grounds occupy prominent places in the city, and one is never away from the sound of the bugle. Chang Chih-tung is making a great effort to raise the standard of the army. There is a large military academy establishment here with the accommodations for 600 students. Only those holding degrees are admitted. Then to improve the condition of the common soldier, who heretofore belonged to the most ignorant class, instruction is being given each day in reading, writing, arithmetic, etc.

In this Chinese city of ancient and modern culture, the Episcopal mission has a large and flourishing educational work. Boone preparatory school, and college, was founded in the year 1871. In the early days it had to struggle to gain a foothold, as all mission schools had to do before the China-Japan War, for the Chinese could then see no good in any education outside their own classics. But after that event students have come to the school in such numbers that accommodations could only be given to a part of them, and there is always a long waiting list. A large per cent of the educational work here is in the English language, for that is what they come for principally. Centering around Boone college is a Divinity school, the students of which are taking an advanced course in theology, largely in our language. Also a Medical school, the course of which is entirely in English, owing to the fact that there is no Chinese nomenclature to express our ideas in medical science. The pupils in the several departments in Boone college come from all walks of life in China. There are representatives from the family of Viceroy Chang Chih-tung, and from that of a neighboring Viceroy equally as famous. Also sons of secre-

taries from the Yamen, and those of other lesser officials in the vicinity. Many sons of merchants and teachers are on the rolls, besides a good number from the laboring classes.

Connected with Boone college, and aiding it in all its departments, is the Boone college library. This was begun in a very humble way by gifts of books from the libraries of friends in America. Then special lists of new books desired were sent out and met with a response. Late text books were also solicited, which were sold at auction to the pupils, and the money expended for additions. So from these various sources, an English library of over 3,000 volumes has been built up. The students have made constant use of these books, both during the school term, and the vacations, and the traveling library has been made to play its part also whenever possible. The educational work of the college would have been much impeded if this small library had not come into existence. We are now hoping to spread our influence beyond the confines of Boone college, and aid in this great educational movement in this important literary and military center where we are located. In no way can we do this better than by establishing a large public library, which shall contain not only English books, but Chinese literature as well. It is certain that the students of the government schools and the Military academy, will welcome the privileges of a library, for whenever we have had anything educational, as scientific lectures, etc., to offer them, they have been most anxious to avail themselves of the opportunity. Already the experiment of a reading-room, containing Chinese periodicals, has been tried with great success.

In all the country there is not now, since the burning of the Hanlin college in Peking during the Boxer year, a proper public library. Dr W. A. P. Martin, in speaking of this subject, said:

"The circulating library, if it exists in this country at all, is an exotic. The very characters for library mean a place for

*hiding* books. If a circulating library can be started it will introduce a new force, which, like radium, will shine in the dark without being exhausted."

The literature of China is large and varied, and if a collection of these books could be made and regularly classified, it would be of inestimable benefit. Some of the valuable old books in Chinese literature are now in the possession of a few high officials and scholars, and are kept in their homes. It is hoped if such a library is started, some of such works may be given or loaned instead of being locked up as they now are in private collections where only a few have the privilege of reading them. In addition to the literature in the original, there are a great many translations into Chinese being made all the time from English, German, French, etc., in science, history, and general literature. A great number of these translations are issued in Japan, for it is estimated that about 13,000 Chinese students are at present pursuing courses in Western learning in the schools and colleges there. Then the Society for the diffusion of christian and general knowledge, founded by missionaries some fifteen years ago, has already done a great work in spreading both Christian and secular literature throughout the country. All translations of value, of course, we wish to purchase as soon as the works are issued, and such translations will of themselves make a large department.

Japan early in her transition stage recognized the importance of the public library, as a factor in education, and established them in two or three of her great centers. The Tokio Imperial public library has over 400,000 volumes, and yet it is inadequate to meet the intellectual needs of the people, and the building is to be enlarged to twice its present size. Among those who eagerly seek the advantages of this library are the Chinese students who are taking courses in the schools and universities there. This is an indication of the appreciation these young men would have of a library in one of their own cities.

Dr Seth Low has helped to make this dream a reality by starting our library fund by a generous gift. He says, in speaking of this subject:

"I believe Wuchang to be a center where a library of a high order will be a great benefit to China and the Chinese. It is in a sense a nerve center in the body politic from which impulses of every sort are disseminated through the great multitudes comprising the Chinese Empire. The recent awakening of China to the importance of Western learning has added new emphasis to the old importance of Wuchang; and I can think of nothing more sagacious on the part of those who wish China well than to do everything possible to strengthen there at Wuchang the influences that make for good."

Dr E. C. RICHARDSON then presented the

#### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The activity of this committee has been confined to routine matters; (1) transmitting the Narragansett Pier resolution as to the desirability of printed cards for German books to the administration of the Royal library at Berlin, (2) a little correspondence regarding an international index to periodicals in the social sciences, and (3) introducing to the attention of the Association, on reference from its President, and by means of mention in this report, the intention of the Argentine Republic to establish a permanent educational exposition to illustrate the aims and results of American education. The answer of the Berlin library was in effect that it was quite familiar with the advantages of printed cards but must look at the matter from the standpoint of relative need and the enterprises already undertaken. In the Argentine matter, it is hoped that the Council will authorize A. L. A. headquarters to cooperate. The representative of the Argentine government, Mr Ernesto Nelson, will receive material for this purpose at the Manhattan Storage Warehouse, 42nd Street and Lexington Avenue, New York City. The chief international event of the year is the completion of the work

of the Committee on Catalog rules, already reported to this Association.

The PRESIDENT: In preparing the program for this session, the Program committee have invited our affiliated societies to present to us the best or the most general of their papers, believing that these subjects will be of interest to the Association. They propose to leave, however, the discussion, in any extended form, to the meetings of the sections or the affiliated organizations. The first matter is the Report of the Committee on Cooperation with the National educational association, presented by Miss MARY E. AHERN, the chairman.

#### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION

The past year, so far as the work of this committee is concerned, has been one of endeavor, rather than of accomplishment. The endeavor has been along three lines: (1) to bring, effectively, to the attention of the Normal schools of the country, the work of this committee as represented by the handbook on "Instruction in library administration in Normal schools" (2) to obtain more effective official recognition of the work of this committee, by the N. E. A. (3) to interest school teachers in the study of library tools.

1 Library administration in normal schools. This committee made a report last year on the plans and purposes of the pamphlet, "Instruction in library administration in Normal schools," which had just been issued at that time. The effort to interest Normal schools has been continued, as it seems impossible to secure effective cooperation with the N. E. A. until the individual teachers are interested. With this object in view, some 300 of the pamphlets were sent out last July to the principals and librarians of normal, training and high schools, throughout the country. In February a circular letter was sent to those to whom the pamphlet had gone, embodying detailed inquiries as to whether any